

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 13, 15 – 28, and 30 – 71 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 12, 13, 21, and 30 -35 have been amended. Claims 14 and 29 have been cancelled. New claims 43 – 71 have been added.

The Examiner's presumption that Ralph Jameson is the first named inventor is correct.

The drawings stand objected to as not showing the metal coating. The Drawings have been corrected to add FIG. 8 showing the metal coating, no new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The title has been amended to clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed, as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The abstract stands objected to because of implied language. The abstract has been corrected to avoid the use of implied language. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands objected to because of informalities. Claim 1 has been amended to correct these informalities, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected to because of informalities. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to correct these informalities, wherein antecedent bases is now believe to be proper. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 – 10, 15, 16, 20 – 22, 24, 26 – 28, 30, 31, and 35 stand rejected as being anticipated by Shimoji et al. The limitations of claim 14 (which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter) have been incorporated

into independent claim 1. The limitations of claim 29 (which has been indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter) have been incorporated into independent claim 21. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 29 should now be in condition for allowance, as not being anticipated by Shimoji et al. Further, dependent claims 2, 4, 6 – 10, 15, 16, 20, 22, 24, 26 – 28, 30, 31, and 35 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be allowable independent claim. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner's presumptions regarding joint inventorship are correct.

Claims 3 and 23 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Shimoji et al. in view of Yoshiaki. Claims 3 and 23 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be allowable independent claim, as set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 25 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Shimoji et al. in view of Yosuhiko. Claims 5 and 25 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be allowable independent claim, as set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 – 13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Shimoji et al. in view of admitted prior art. Claims 11 - 13 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be allowable independent claim, as set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 32 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Shimoji et al. in view of case law. While applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's application of the case law, the issue is moot as claims 17 and 32 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be allowable independent claim, as set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 33 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Shimoji et al. in view of Ota et al. Claims 18 and 33 should also be allowable as depending from what should now be allowable independent claim, as set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Allowance of claims 36 -42 is hereby recognized and appreciated.

Indication that claims 14, 19, 29, and 34 contain allowable subject matter is hereby recognized and appreciated. As set forth above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 14 and claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 29, in reliance upon the Examiner's indication. New claim 43 incorporates the limitations of original claims 1, 18 and 19, with new claims 44 - 59 depending therefrom, in reliance upon the Examiner's indication. New claim 60 incorporates the limitations of original claims 21, 33 and 43, with new claims 61 - 71 depending therefrom, in reliance upon the Examiner's indication.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action. Therefore, having traversed the Examiner's rejections, reexamination and allowance of claims 1 - 13, 15 - 28, and 30 - 71 is respectfully requested.

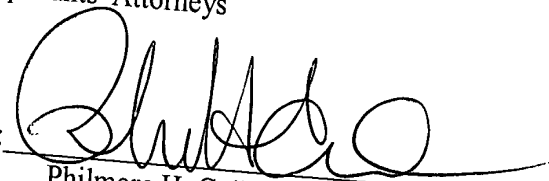
If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise,
please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH L. DALLAS ET AL.

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By:



Philmore H. Colburn II
Registration No. 35,101

Date: August 19, 2003

Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Telephone: (860) 286-2929

Customer No. 23413